## II. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1 (currently amended): ~~An apparatus for separating particles from fluid~~ A filtration system, comprising: ~~(a)~~ a filter ~~component~~ assembly ~~element having and upward facing side and a downward facing side;~~ , wherein said filter assembly further comprises a filter component and a plurality of ~~(b) at least two~~ baffles attached to, or formed ~~as part of,~~ integrally with ~~said downward facing~~ one side of said filter component for reducing the motion of said fluid around and through said filter assembly, and wherein said baffles substantially traverse the length and width of said filter component at right angles to said filter component.

2 (cancelled)

3 (cancelled)

4 (currently amended): The ~~apparatus~~ system of claim 1, wherein said filter component further comprises an o-ring encircling the perimeter of said filter component ~~for securing said filter assembly in said receptacle~~.

5 (currently amended): The ~~apparatus~~ system of claim 1, wherein said filter component further comprises at least one aperture passing though said filter component for providing a means by which a user of said system may easily remove said filter assembly from said receptacle, and wherein said aperture is of sufficient size to accommodate a human finger or thumb.

6 (currently amended): The ~~apparatus~~ system of claim 5, wherein said at least one aperture is defined by a band ~~or ring~~ of material, and wherein said band of material is separate from the material of said filter component or formed ~~from~~ integrally with the material of the filter component.

7 (currently amended): The ~~apparatus~~ system of claim 1, wherein the ~~upward-facing~~ top side of said filter component further comprises crossbars ~~that~~ the topmost edges of which are tapered to minimize the surface area of said filter component.

8 (currently amended): A filtration system ~~for separating particles from fluid~~, comprising:

(a) a receptacle ~~for containing said fluid~~, wherein said receptacle further comprises a closed bottom portion and an open top portion; and

(b) a filter assembly, wherein said filter assembly further comprises:

(i) a filter component shaped to ~~fit~~ correspond to the ~~shape~~ dimensions of said receptacle, ~~wherein said filter component comprises an upward-facing side and a downward-facing side~~;

(ii) an o-ring encircling the perimeter of said filter component for ~~securing~~ forming a seal with ~~said filter assembly in~~ said receptacle; and

(iii) a plurality of ~~at least two~~ baffles attached to or formed ~~as part of~~ integrally with ~~said downward-facing~~ one side of said filter component for reducing the motion of said fluid around and through said filter assembly, and wherein said baffles substantially traverse the length and width of said filter component at right angles to said filter component.

9 (currently amended): The system of claim 8, wherein said filter component further comprises at least one aperture passing though said filter component for providing a means by which a user of said system may easily remove said filter assembly from said receptacle, and wherein said aperture is of sufficient size to accommodate a human finger or thumb.

10 (currently amended): The ~~apparatus~~ system of claim 9, wherein said at least one aperture is defined by a band ~~or ring~~ of material, and wherein said band of material separate from the material of said filter component or formed ~~from~~ integrally with the material of the filter component.

11 (cancelled)

12 (currently amended): The ~~apparatus~~ system of claim 8, wherein the ~~upward facing~~ top side of said filter component further comprises crossbars ~~that~~ the topmost edges of which are tapered to minimize the surface area of said filter component.

13 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 8, wherein said filter assembly and receptacle are fabricated as a single integrated and inseparable unit.

14 –19 (cancelled)